UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/458
4 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FOURTH PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (UNAVEM III)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995, in which the Council requested me to inform it monthly of progress in the deployment of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) and in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex). It covers the main developments since my last report, dated 3 May (S/1995/350).

II. POLITICAL SITUATION

2. During the period under review, my Special Representative, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, continued his efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and to consolidate the recent progress achieved on the political and military fronts. With the active support of the representatives of the three observer States (United States of America, Portugal and Russian Federation), he maintained frequent contacts with the President of Angola, Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, and with Mr. Jonas Savimbi, President of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), with a view to convening a long-awaited meeting between them. He also travelled to Zaire to meet with President Mobutu Sese Seko and to Zambia for consultations with President Frederick Chiluba.

3. President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi met in Lusaka on 6 May 1995. In their discussions, they covered all aspects of the peace process and pledged their cooperation to consolidate peace in Angola and to implement the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol. They also agreed that their next meeting would take place in Luanda, at an unspecified date. In preparation for such a meeting, two senior officials of the Angolan Government visited Mr. Savimbi on 25 May in Bailundo.

4. On 10 May 1995, I wrote to President dos Santos and to Mr. Savimbi to congratulate them on their successful meeting. At the same time, I expressed the hope that some of the issues raised in Lusaka would be resolved at their

next meeting so that the pace of the peace process could be accelerated. I assured President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi that the United Nations remained ready to support their efforts to bring lasting peace and reconciliation to Angola. I also wrote to President Chiluba of Zambia to express my appreciation for his efforts in making that important meeting possible. My Special Representative travelled to Zimbabwe and South Africa to brief Presidents Robert Mugabe and Nelson Mandela on the new impetus the meeting had given to the peace process.

5. The Joint Commission has continued to monitor major political, military and humanitarian developments relating to the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. At its most recent special meeting held on 18 May in the city of Lobito, the Commission focused on the opening of roads throughout the country and the free circulation of persons and goods. In a gesture to demonstrate that a major road was now safe for travel, the members of the Commission, including my Special Representative, travelled to and from Lobito by road, an event that was warmly welcomed by the population.

6. In another positive development, the Government released through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) over 200 UNITA prisoners who, according to their wishes, were either reunited with their families or sent to UNITA headquarters in Bailundo.

7. I am also pleased to report that, pending the establishment of an independent United Nations radio station, UNAVEM has started broadcasting an information programme, "Os Caminhos da Paz", over radio and television facilities made available by the Government of Angola. In the meantime, the Mission has requested the Government to allocate frequencies for the UNAVEM radio.

III. MILITARY AND POLICE MATTERS

8. After consideration of my third progress report (S/1995/350), the Security Council, in its presidential statement of 3 May (S/PRST/1995/27), noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol concerning, inter alia, the reduction of cease-fire violations, disengagement of forces, cooperation between the parties and UNAVEM III and other positive developments. At the same time, the Council expressed its concern at the slow progress made in several areas. It stressed the necessity for increased cooperation by the Government and UNITA with the United Nations in carrying out all major provisions of the Lusaka Protocol and the relevant Security Council resolutions. It also underlined the urgency of the mine-clearance programme and emphasized that urgent attention should be given to the quartering of UNITA soldiers, as well as to the withdrawal of government troops to their barracks.

9. During the period under review, the cease-fire in Angola continued generally to hold. The number of cease-fire violations has further decreased and no major incidents were reported. This is a source of particular satisfaction. At the same time, both parties continued to register complaints of small-scale attacks, aggressive patrolling, raids and the harassment of civilians, while, in some areas, the Government reportedly distributed arms to

its civil defence personnel. Despite considerable progress, the second phase of disengagement, which covers the provinces of Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul and Moxico, has not been fully completed. UNAVEM has been making every effort to resolve this issue, both locally and within the context of the Joint Commission.

10. In the meantime, at its fifteenth regular session on 11 May, the Joint Commission formally approved a decision to the effect that, after the demobilization of government and UNITA troops, the future strength of the Forças Armadas Angolanas would be 90,000 soldiers, 74,000 of whom would be ground troops provided in equal numbers by the two parties. The national defence force would also comprise air and naval forces of 11,000 and 5,000 troops, respectively. UNAVEM is continuing to encourage the Government and UNITA to reach the earliest possible solution for demobilization, including agreement on a timetable. It is evident that the entire exercise will require extensive preparations, as the integrated armed forces will require from the Government adequate accommodation, food, clothing, transportation and other essential supplies and services.

11. My Special Representative has received a letter from the UNITA leadership providing additional details of the strength of their forces. This will no doubt facilitate the formation of the Angolan armed forces. It is important to initiate as soon as possible an exchange of information between the parties on their military equipment and military installations.

12. A plan has been finalized to address mine-clearance requirements for the deployment of UNAVEM infantry troops and other essential functions of the Mission. Within this framework, UNAVEM has strongly urged the Government and UNITA to expedite mine-clearance operations throughout the country, a responsibility that they undertook at the signing of the Lusaka Protocol. Demining operations have been initiated in various parts of the country, and the Government has pledged US$ 3 million for mine-clearance activities, in particular for the urgent purchase of necessary equipment. I trust that United Nations programmes and agencies in Angola, as well as NGOs, will extend all necessary cooperation to the Mission in this endeavour. This effort will be supplemented in the coming months by the Central Mine Action Training School which is to be established by the United Nations.

13. Another obstacle preventing the free circulation of the population and the prompt deployment of United Nations troops is the damaged condition of roads and bridges. While the Government has begun a major bridge repair programme, it is necessary to increase UNAVEM's capacity to provide the necessary engineering support for movement of its troops. To this end, I intend to strengthen the military component of UNAVEM by adding two specialized engineering companies, within the Mission's authorized strength of 7,000 military personnel.

14. The Assistant Secretary-General for Planning and Support in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, Lieutenant-General Manfred Eisele, visited Angola from 10 to 15 May 1995 to discuss with my Special Representative, representatives of the Government and UNITA, major problems related to the induction of United Nations troops and to assess the situation on the ground. General Eisele's recommendations have confirmed the need to consolidate recent

progress in the establishment of UNAVEM III and to adjust the deployment schedule of infantry units.

15. The United Nations logistic battalion deployed in Lobito/Catumbela and Luanda has become fully operational and has undertaken preparations for the establishment of logistic bases and the deployment of follow-up units. In addition, an engineer squadron, a signals unit, a field hospital and advance parties of several other units have been deployed to Angola. According to the revised timetable, the first infantry battalion is expected to arrive in Angola during the first week of June, deployment of the second is planned for the first half of July, and the third in the second half of July. The further dispatch of United Nations infantry will depend on the progress made by the parties in opening up major access roads and in mine clearance. In order to assist in this process, UNAVEM III is making contractual arrangements with a private company for the mine verification of certain segments of deployment routes. In the meantime, deployment of infantry battalions to the eastern part of the country will be organized as a combined land/air operation. An additional unforeseen complication was the decision of a Member State that had initially indicated its willingness to contribute an infantry battalion to UNAVEM to withdraw its offer; the Secretariat is actively pursuing the identification of a suitable replacement. In the meantime, having consulted the two parties, UNAVEM is preparing for the establishment of another 7 team sites, in addition to the 60 that already exist.

16. As of 30 May, 210 civilian police observers from 19 countries have been deployed to 29 UNAVEM team sites, including the 6 regional headquarters. They continue to monitor the activities of the national police, visit detention centres and liaise with local authorities. They have received differing degrees of support from the Angolan national police in various parts of the country. Although this cooperation has been encouraging in most areas, there is still considerable room for improvement in others, as some police authorities claim that they have not received instructions to grant the United Nations unrestricted access to police facilities or to provide it with all information in accordance with the Lusaka Protocol. There has been little progress so far in quartering the Government's rapid reaction police, which is due mainly to delays in making adequate barracks available.

17. On several occasions in the past, the attention of the Security Council has been drawn to the precarious security situation in Angola. There has recently been an increase in acts of banditry against the civilian population, including international staff. On 15 May, a senior UNAVEM police observer from Argentina was shot and killed in Luanda in an apparent act of banditry. I strongly deplore this murder. My Special Representative has conveyed my deep concern to President dos Santos, who promised to investigate the incident vigorously and to take additional measures to enhance the security of United Nations and other international personnel. At the same time, UNAVEM III has also tightened security arrangements for its staff.

IV. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

18. The recent political progress has also given a new impetus to humanitarian activities in support of the peace process. It is hoped that the opening of priority roads can now proceed at an accelerated pace, with effective mine clearance being a crucial factor, and that arrangements for demobilization can be completed expeditiously. It is evident, however, that a more reliable flow of voluntary resources will be required from the international community to assist Angola in its transition from a state of war and economic dissolution to rehabilitation and reconstruction.

19. During the past month, progress was made in opening cost-efficient overland routes for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The World Food Programme (WFP) was able to send its first convoy from Luanda to N'dalatando, the capital of Kwanza Norte province, and airlifts of food to this city were discontinued. Road and bridge rehabilitation on this route is proceeding further eastward, thus opening prospects for overland deliveries to Malange as well.

20. Since my last report, several mine incidents have taken place, the most serious near Kuito, where non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provided crucial life-saving support to the victims. Meanwhile, NGOs specialized in mine clearance continue to clear the areas in and around major towns and the Norwegian People's Aid has initiated a mine survey in the northern provinces. Mine-awareness and avoidance programmes for internally displaced persons and refugees have been initiated, with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assuming lead roles under the coordination of the Central Mine Action Office established within the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit. The statutes of the Angolan National Mine Action Institute are being finalized, and it is expected that this organization will soon begin operations.

21. The Demobilization and Reintegration Office of the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit has conducted interviews with a representative sample of combatants (300 each from the Angolan armed forces and UNITA) for its survey on the social and economic expectations of Angolan soldiers. The study focuses on three main themes: expectations of the peace process; socio-economic expectations; and cultural and educational profiles of the soldiers. Preliminary findings have shown a marked interest in a speedy demobilization and willingness to cohabit with former soldiers of the opposing side. The final report on the survey is under preparation.

22. Staff of the Demobilization and Reintegration Office have visited Bailundo for discussions with UNITA on health programmes for the quartering phase. The Office has also participated with UNAVEM III in the assessment of sites for the quartering areas. Meanwhile, the statutes of the Angolan Institute for Reintegration, to be set up within the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Reinsertion, are being finalized. The demobilization and reintegration components of the 1995 United Nations humanitarian appeal for Angola are being revised to take account of the recent agreement between the Government and UNITA on the incorporation of UNITA forces into the national army.

23. Humanitarian agencies have registered an improvement in nutritional conditions in a few areas, which allowed them to suspend general food distribution in those areas. However, overall food aid requirements are still considerable. According to the preliminary findings of a recent Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/WFP crop assessment mission, the 1994/95 harvest is far below normal expectations, the likely consequence being that extensive food aid will still be required throughout 1995. Based on the current pattern of food pledges and deliveries, WFP may face a major disruption in supply as early as July. This could jeopardize delivery to the quartering areas, where the provision of food is a key element.

24. I regret to inform the Security Council that, in the non-food sectors, the response to the 1995 United Nations humanitarian appeal has yielded only 3 per cent of required assistance. Delays in the confirmation of pledges announced at the donors' meeting in February 1995 may put all humanitarian programmes in Angola at risk, with dramatic consequences for the civilian population. I once again urge the international community to support United Nations agencies and NGOs in addressing the critical needs of the Angolan people.

V. OBSERVATIONS

25. Since I last reported to the Council, the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol has entered a new and promising phase. The long-awaited meeting between President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi was a major breakthrough that is expected to provide the additional impetus necessary to move the peace process forward. Early agreement on the proposals currently under discussion between the President of Angola and the leader of UNITA, followed by concrete actions, will further strengthen the Lusaka peace process. I have strongly encouraged President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi to pursue actively the issues discussed at their last meeting and, as agreed, to convene a second meeting in Luanda as soon as possible.

26. The overland trip to Lobito by the members of the Joint Commission constituted another important development. It had a positive psychological impact on the population and enhanced confidence in the peace process. Arrangements are being made by my Special Representative for a similar visit in early June to the town of Negage, currently under UNITA control.

27. The deployment of United Nations infantry battalions must be matched by even greater cooperation by the Government and UNITA with the United Nations in implementing all major provisions of the Lusaka Protocol. While much progress has recently been achieved, it is necessary to remind the parties that the peace process is behind schedule and that major efforts will be required to make up for the delays. Recent actions on the part of the Government and UNITA to initiate mine clearance and road rehabilitation must be reinforced, bearing in mind the pressing need to accelerate the free circulation of people and goods throughout the country and to facilitate the deployment inland of United Nations troops. Once again, I urge the international community to support these vital efforts, in particular by providing the equipment needed.

28. I also urge the parties to work out modalities for the formation of the new integrated armed forces and to begin preparations for the demobilization of UNITA troops and withdrawal of government forces to barracks, tasks which will present a formidable challenge for all involved. Movement in this direction should be reinforced by additional confidence-building measures. It is, in particular, important for both parties to begin a comprehensive civilian disarmament campaign throughout the country, to be monitored and supported by the United Nations. The wide proliferation of weapons among civilians threatens security and could undermine the gains achieved through the peace process.

29. It is incumbent on the Government and UNITA to guarantee the safety and security of all United Nations personnel in Angola, in order to avoid tragic incidents such as the one in which a United Nations police observer lost his life. This is an essential condition for the deployment of international staff to various parts of Angola and for the success of United Nations operations in the country.

30. As the peace process gathers momentum, the role of humanitarian assistance in sustaining and consolidating the peace acquires additional importance. In my report proposing the establishment of UNAVEM III (S/1995/97), I emphasized that many humanitarian activities related to the peace process, including crucial programmes in demining and demobilization of troops, relied in large part on voluntary contributions for funding. It is distressing that, of the resources solicited in the 1995 humanitarian appeal for Angola, only 15 per cent has been received to date. I appeal to the international community to replenish the humanitarian stocks for Angola as a matter of urgency. The positive developments reported above should encourage donors to be more forthcoming in providing support to essential programmes.

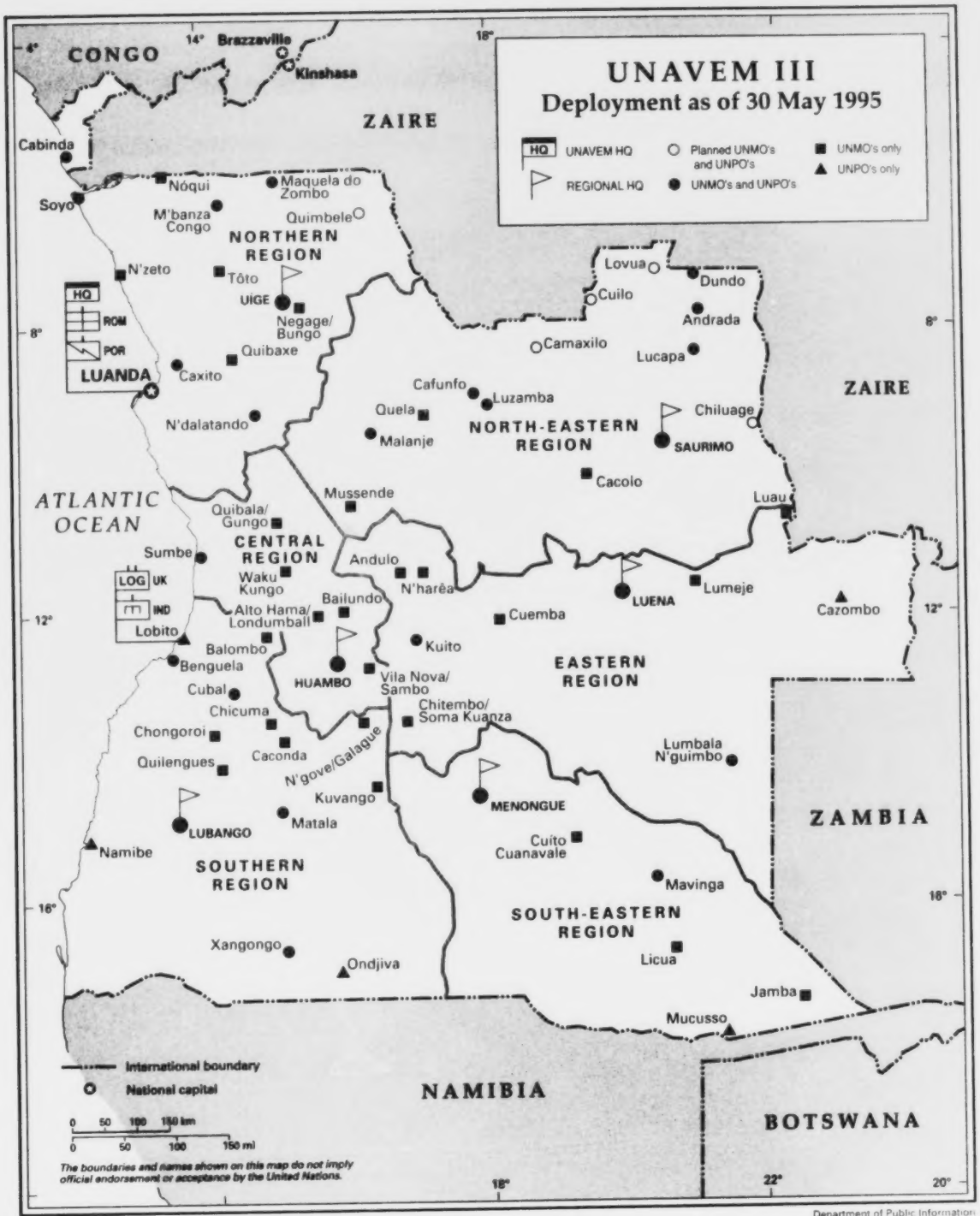
Annex

UNAVEM III military and civilian police personnel

(as of 30 May 1995)

Country	Military observers	Civilian police officers	Military medical personnel	Staff officers	Troops	Total
Algeria	10					10
Argentina	2	2				4
Bangladesh	10	11				21
Brazil	19	17	11			47
Bulgaria	10	10				20
Congo	8					8
Egypt	10	10				20
Fiji		8				8
France	8					8
Guinea-Bissau	20	6				26
Hungary	10	15				25
India	20	19		2	214	256
Jordan	21	20				41
Kenya	10					10
Malaysia	20	20				40
Mali	10	7				17
Morocco		2				2
Netherlands	15	10				25
New Zealand	5					5
Nigeria	21	15				36
Pakistan	5					5
Norway	4					4
Poland	7					7
Portugal	8	1		20	101	130
Romania				27	110	137
Russian Federation	10					10
Senegal	10					10
Slovakia	5					5
Sweden	20					20
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland				8	659	667
Uruguay	10	9		29	80	128
Zambia	10	10				20
Zimbabwe	21	17	—	3		41
Total	339	210	11	89	1 164	1 813

/...



Map No. 3881 Rev. 3 UNITED NATIONS
May 1995

Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section